

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 02/12136

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F2/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61F A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 843 169 A (TAHERI SYDE A) 1 December 1998 (1998-12-01) column 3, line 10 -column 5, line 33	1,2,4,7, 12,13
Y	---	3,6
Y	WO 99 55254 A (BLOMME ADRI MARINUS) 4 November 1999 (1999-11-04) figure 2 page 19, line 8 -page 21, line 6	3,6
A	US 5 968 053 A (REVELAS DEMETRIOS) 19 October 1999 (1999-10-19) column 7, line 45 -column 9, line 37 --- -/--	1,15

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 August 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

28/08/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 00 16701 A (PARODI JUAN C ;UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP (US); RENDE FRANK M (US) 30 March 2000 (2000-03-30) figures 10-16 page 11, line 11 -page 13, line 21 -----	1,15
X	US 5 720 755 A (DAKOV PEPI) 24 February 1998 (1998-02-24) column 8, line 65 -column 20, line 21 -----	1,2,6

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 18-22
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

national Application No

PCT/US 02/12136

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5843169	A	01-12-1998	NONE	
WO 9955254	A	04-11-1999	NL 1009028 C2	29-10-1999
			AU 3540399 A	16-11-1999
			CA 2330423 A1	04-11-1999
			EP 1075231 A1	14-02-2001
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			WO 9833462 A1	06-08-1998
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			WO 0016701 A1	30-03-2000
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			US 6030392 A	29-02-2000